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COSMIC LOG

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ABOUT COSMIC LOG

Quantum fluctuations in space, science, exploration and other cosmic fields... served up regularly by MSNBC.com science editor Alan Boyle since 2002.



Alan Boyle covers the physical sciences, anthropology, technological innovation and space science and exploration for MSNBC.com. He is a winner of the [AAAS Science Journalism Award](#), the [NASW Science-in-Society Award](#) and other honors; a contributor to "[A Field Guide for Science Writers](#)"; and a member of the board of the [Council for the Advancement of Science Writing](#).

Check out Boyle's [biography](#) or send a message to Cosmic Log via cosmiclog@msnbc.com.

Live, from the moon!

Posted: Monday, June 22, 2009 4:40 PM by Alan Boyle

NASA's [moon-crashing probe](#) - known as the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, or LCROSS - is flying past its target Tuesday morning. And if the streaming-video spirits are smiling, [you can follow along](#).

The space agency says it is planning to webcast LCROSS' lunar encounter starting at 8:20 a.m. ET Tuesday. The swingby is aimed at changing the spacecraft's trajectory, five days after [launch](#), in order to get it into position for its eventual crash (currently set for October).

LCROSS' cameras and other scientific instruments will be switched on for about an hour for calibration purposes. The first 30 minutes of LCROSS' data feed will provide frame-per-second video views of the lunar surface from an altitude of about 5,600 miles (9,000 kilometers), NASA says. During the second half-hour, LCROSS will scan the lunar horizon to calibrate its sensors, and the video imagery will update only occasionally. Another Web stream will show an animation visualizing the spacecraft's position throughout the swingby.

The availability and quality of the streaming video will depend on a multitude of factors - so as usual, there

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Does anybody know if LRO has cameras strong enough to actually see the Apollo landing sites in enough detail to finally put to rest all of the doubts that about NASA's manned lunar missions? I know that this is not the tasked purpose for LRO, but it would be nice to have real concrete evidence to finally end that debate. Too many people take for granted all of the sacrifice, dedication, hardwork and effort the manned space program has required through the years along with all of the everyday benefits that we enjoy. Congress should not be cutting NASA's budget in any way. In fact, no other government program has ever give as much, for as little that has been spent over the years, as NASA and the manned space program. Congress should make sure that NASA is fully funded for all of the different programs that it has so that they all can contribute to this planet that we all call home.

Bill Edwards,, Roseville Michigan (Sent Tuesday, June 23, 2009 9:31 AM)

Anyone know how many probes have crashed into the moon? According to <http://science.discovery.com/tv/space-week/timeline/timeline.html> that's how "landings" were first made.

DG, Bayonne, NJ (Sent Friday, June 26, 2009 4:32 PM)

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